

NSC BRIEFING

10 October 1957

FRENCH CABINET CRISIS

- I. Resistance Union party leader Rene Pleven's failure to resolve left-right differences, probably the result of his demand for a 1-year political truce.
 - A. Parties apparently could not swallow possibility of fiscal, Algerian, and constitutional reform during this period.
 - B. Press reports had also indicated that Socialist party was hoping Pleven would fall, thereby increasing Mollet's own chances later.
- II. Cety may next turn to other center party candidate with less stringent demands.
 - A. Possibilities include Defense Minister Morice, Popular Republican Robert Schuman, or Francois Mitterrand of Pleven's party.
 - B. Another attempt by Mollet may also be expected.
 1. He and Independent leader Duchet may arrange compromise on key economic stumbling blocks.
- III. Meanwhile, gravity of impasse causes General de Gaulle's presence to loom larger than in previous crises.
 - A. Duchet, who is astute politician, claims that De Gaulle with a few officers and some police could take over by force without much initial opposition.
 1. Adds, however, that the General so far eschewing such methods.
 - B. At present, deputies not responsive to idea of legal installations of De Gaulle.

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